

CASCADED DEFLECTORS FOR MULTI-CHANNEL OPTICAL SWITCHES, AND OPTICAL SWITCHING MODULES AND METHODS HAVING CASCADED DEFLECTORS

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Cascaded optical deflectors are formed from light deflecting elements of an electro-optical material that are individually controlled according to applied voltage differences across the elements. The shape of the elements are determined by the shape of the electrodes on either side of the electro-optical material, while the refractive index is controlled by the sign and magnitude of a voltage difference applied across the elements. In particular, the invention includes light deflection elements that are tilted with respect to one another and that are individually controlled to provide for the deflection of light in an improved manner.